

## **Public Informational Meeting Synopsis**

*For*

### **State Project Nos. 034-0309 & 034-0347 Safety Improvements on S.R. 806 (Newtown Road) & Intersection Improvements at Old Shelter Rock Road and Old Newtown Road in the City of Danbury, CT**

**DATE:** Monday, March 30, 2015

**TIME:** 7:00 p.m. Presentation

**LOCATION:** Danbury City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room)  
155 Deer Hill Road  
Danbury, CT

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#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Honorable Robert Godfrey – State Representative, 110<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Stephen G. Harding – State Representative, 107<sup>th</sup> District  
Jonathan Chew – Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG formerly HVCEO)

#### **City of Danbury (City):**

Wayne Shepperd – Chief of Staff / Mayor's Assistant  
Joseph Urice – City Planning Commissioner  
Antonio Iadarola – Public Works Director  
Farid Khouri – City Engineer  
Abdul Mohamed – City Traffic Engineer

#### **Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department):**

William W. Britnell – Principal Engineer of Highway Design  
Michael N. Calabrese – Project Manager, Highway Design  
Michael S. Cherpak – Project Engineer, Highway Design  
Sergey Nikulin – Design Engineer, Highway Design  
Hugo Riveria – Design Engineer, Highway Design  
Charles Cassone – Design Engineer, Highway Design  
Thomas Melzen – Property Agent, Rights of Way

The meeting was attended by approximately 25 people

#### **PRESENTATION:**

The Public Informational Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wayne Shepperd of the Mayor's Office. Mr. Shepperd turned things over to Mr. Antonio Iadarola, Public Works Director, who introduced the Department of Transportation and provided a brief background on the project funding and history of the City's ongoing communication with the Connecticut Department of Transportation on these projects. Mr. Iadarola stated that the City supports these projects and emphasized their importance as the first in a string of improvements proposed for

Newtown Road. Mr. Michael Cherpak began the Department's presentation with a brief history of the projects and indicated the project limits and general scope. Mr. Sergey Nikulin provided a detailed presentation that included an overview of existing site conditions, proposed improvements, and potential rights-of-way impacts. Mr. Thomas Melzen briefly spoke about the Department's Rights of Way process. Mr. Cherpak closed the presentation by presenting the construction cost and anticipated schedule.

At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened to the public for their questions and comments which are summarized below. Of those in attendance, the proposed improvements were well received.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

*One resident posed a question relating to bicycles and a complete streets design. He was pleased with the mention of a wider shoulder to better accommodate bicyclists but requested that the Department look into adding exclusive bicycle lanes in Danbury. He also inquired whether there have been any recorded crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists. The Department responded that within the period of time evaluated, there were no recorded crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists.*

*A citizen stated that there is an existing issue at Industrial Plaza Road. He mentioned that installing a signal there or modifying the existing signal at the Xpect Plaza could help address left-turn issues coming out of the road. The Department responded that the scope of the current project is to address left-turning crashes occurring at the commercial driveways south of the existing signal. Industrial Plaza Road is currently signed to preclude left turns out and the Department has no plans to change its existing configuration. The individual was encouraged to provide written comment outlining his concern to both the Department and the City for future consideration.*

*A resident inquired about the design of the raised medians for proposed for Project No. 34-347. He asked if the medians would be mountable and if they are for the purpose of left-turn prevention. The Department indicated that the purpose of the raised medians is to eliminate the existing crashes occurring at the commercial driveways. Business access would be provided through use of the U-Turns at either end of the median. The final details of the median design have not been completed but a mountable option is not likely.*

*Two residents were concerned with larger vehicles, such as 18-wheelers, driving on Old Shelter Rock Road where there are signs posted with "No Thru Trucks". City Officials encouraged those concerned to make note of the trucks numbers and contact the Police Department. Also, it was noted that when a road is signed "No Thru Trucks" it does not preclude all trucks from using that road. When there is a destination for a truck on that roadway that truck is permitted to use the road to access its destination.*

*One resident asked whether the proposed traffic signal at Old Shelter Rock Rd would be actuated. The Department indicated that it would be actuated by loop detectors cut into the pavement.*

*A citizen was concerned that vehicles larger than extended-cab pickup trucks would not be able to make the U-turn maneuver. They also worried the proposed storage lanes would not be long enough. The Department indicated that the proposed storage lane lengths are based on an analysis that takes into consideration existing traffic volumes as well as projected traffic*

volumes. The Department also acknowledged that the current proposal provides U-Turn capability for passenger vehicles. The Department and the City have had numerous conversations on these U-Turns and it was decided to go forward the proposed configuration. The Department explained that these U-Turns could be designed to accommodate larger vehicles but the extents of the impacts to adjacent businesses would be much greater.

*One resident asked for the height of the proposed medians.* The Department indicated the height of the medians would likely be 6 inches. The median would also be graded to drain to ensure that no water would collect and pond there.

*One resident asked who made the decision to restrict left-turns into and out of the gas station. Another resident indicated their approval to this restriction.* The decision to restrict access was made by the Department.

*One resident asked whether the proposed changes would mean the elimination of the triangle at the Old Newtown Road intersection.* The Department indicated the triangle island would be removed as part of the project. The proposed improvements involve normalizing the intersection by improving the angle of intersection of Old Newtown Road with Newtown Road.

*There was concern that firetrucks would be unable to access businesses because of the new medians.* The Department will work with the City and its Fire Chief to come up with a solution that would suit the Fire Department's needs.

*A resident asked if there would be staged construction or if all three sites would be worked on at the same time. Another resident asked what can be done to reduce the impact on neighboring smaller roads during construction.* The Department indicated that the contractor would likely make the decision of how to build the project. However, the Department has the ability to include provisions regarding construction staging and will investigate whether or not that is necessary for this project. With regards to the impact on neighboring roads, the Department would coordinate with the City to help reduce the impact.